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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Treat It Gently" - Information from household equipment specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture

No matter if your vacuum cleaner is old and worn...treat it gently.

The prospect is that it will be older and more worn before you're able to get a new vacuum cleaner to replace it.

And if you're wondering how you can treat it gently and still get useful service from your vacuum cleaner, here are some pointers from household equipment specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

First - don't ask your war-weary cleaner to inhale string...pins...hairpins... or other stray bits of metal or of cloth.

Metal bits may puncture the dust bag. If your cleaner is of the revolving brush or agitator type, metal bits may cut the belt and nick or bend the fan blades. String or cloth may wind around the belt pulley or revolving cylinders. Sometimes this breaks the belt...or makes it slip so that it wears out sooner than it would have otherwise.

So to protect your vacuum cleaner, pick up the pins and other metal objects on the floor. Pick up the pieces of paper and the string and cloth too.

Something else - give your cleaner time to do a good job. How much time? Well, say you have time to clean your rugs thoroughly only once a week. The household equipment specialists say if you use the cleaner only once a week, you need to spend about 30 minutes to clean a nine by twelve rug.

And here's another point...you'll come nearer to making a clean sweep if you operate your cleaner slowly.

Finally - keep your cleaner clean. Put it away in shipshape condition. This means that you not only empty the dust container...but that you also clean the rotating roll if your machine has one.

And I'm sure you know how important it is that you store your vacuum cleaner in a dry, cool place...a dry place so that the metal parts won't rust...a cool place - away from sun or radiators - for the sake of the rubber cord and the rubber parts.

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